



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Evenings to Remember” on May 10 to feature Chicago Alderman Edward M. Burke

***Burke will discuss 41-year City Council career and book about
Chicago Presidential conventions since 1860***

SPRINGFIELD – Chicago history will be the focus of the next “Evenings to Remember” on Monday, May 10 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield as long-time Chicago Alderman Edward M. Burke discusses his 41-year City Council career and his books about history, including one about Presidential Conventions in Chicago since the one that nominated Abraham Lincoln 1860.

The May 10 program begins at 7 p.m. in the Museum’s Union Theater and will be followed by a book signing. There is no admission charge, but advance reservations must be made by calling (217) 558-8934. Copies of Burke’s books may be purchased from the Museum Gift Shop that evening. “Evenings to Remember” is sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

Throughout his career in public life, Alderman Burke has been an avid student of Chicago history and is the co-author of three books, *Inside the Wigwam: Chicago Presidential Conventions, 1860-1996*; *End of Watch: Chicago Police Killed in the Line of Duty, 1853-2006*; and *Glory & Government: Chicago’s City Hall at 100*.

During “Evenings to Remember,” Burke will be interviewed on stage about this political career and books by WSIU-TV Carbondale “Illinois Lawmakers” host Jak Tichenor. The one-hour program will be relaxed and conversational. Past “Evenings to Remember” interviewees have included former Governors Jim Edgar and James R. Thompson, former Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, and author Doris Kearns Goodwin.

The Chicago City Council recently passed legislation sponsored by Alderman Burke to set aside municipal funds to establish a permanent display that would feature two historic tablets being stored in City Hall's basement. One tablet commemorates the so-called Wigwam Convention of 1860 that nominated Abraham Lincoln as President. The second tablet relates to the prior structure at the same location, the Sauganash Hotel.

Chicago native Edward M. Burke is the city's 14th Ward Alderman representing the Southwest Side, an office he has held since 1969. He is the longest continually serving alderman from a single ward in Chicago history. Burke has been called Chicago's "most powerful alderman" by the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Ed Burke's father, Joseph P. Burke, was a Cook County Sheriff's policeman who served as Committeeman from the 14th Ward and was elected Alderman in November 1953. Ed Burke attended Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary and then DePaul University where he earned his undergraduate degree and then his law degree while working as a police officer from 1965 to 1968. Burke succeeded his late father first as Democratic Committeeman in 1968 and then as 14th Ward Alderman in 1969, a post he has held ever since.

Ed Burke is married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke. His brother, Daniel Burke, is an Illinois State Representative.

A small exhibit of Chicago Convention-related artifacts from the Presidential Library and Museum's collections will also be on display in the Museum's Treasurers Gallery.

The 1860 Republican National Convention was held in Chicago, Illinois in a temporary structure call "The Wigwam." It was the first time a national political convention was held in Chicago. Taken from an American Indian term for a temporary shelter or structure, the word was used in antebellum political culture to identify buildings for national conventions. When the Illinois Republican Party met to nominate Abraham Lincoln in Decatur, Illinois on May 9-10, that event was also held in a wood and canvas structure called the Wigwam. Illinois Republicans were savvy to locate the national convention in Chicago, providing a home-field advantage for Lincoln. Creating the temporary two-story structure at what is now Lake Street and Wacker Drive cost \$5,000 from money raised by subscription. The structure measured 100 by 180 feet and was designed to hold the 466 delegates, press and perhaps as many as 9,000 spectators.

For more information about programs and exhibits at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, visit www.presidentlincoln.org.

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